

# Borough of St. Ives

CORNWALL



## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

# Medical Officer of Health

for

Year ended 31st December, 1947.



Public Health Department,

The Guildhall,

ST. IVES, C.

June, 1948.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of  
the Borough of St. Ives.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

In presenting the Annual Report for 1947 there are one or two points which are important to bring to your notice, which, although commented on in the text should be mentioned here.

The first is the need in this Borough for a suitable building for a clinic. This is a most urgent matter for the benefit of the citizens and though this may be regarded as primarily a matter for the County Council, it must obviously be of interest also to the Town and its Council. There is also a pressing need for an immediate increase in the number of public conveniences, as the inadequacy of the present arrangements is all too frequently demonstrated.

From the point of view of Public Health Administration the year has been a very full one and I am grateful to the members of the Council for their interest and to the officers of other Departments of the Corporation for their help to a new-comer. I should especially like to thank the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Douglas for the very ready and loyal help he has given me at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. K. DUNSCOMBE.

Medical Officer of Health.

# Section "A"

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Population - Registrar General's estimate, 1947 -	8,753
Area in acres .....	4,400
No. of inhabited houses.....	2,950
Rateable Value.....	£80,393
Product of ld Rate.....	£317

	M.	F.	Total	
Live Births	77	71	148	Rate per 1,000 population, 16.9
Legitimate	73	64	137	
Illegitimate	4	7	11	
Still births	-	1	1	Rate per 1,000 total births
Legitimate	-	1	1	6.7.
Deaths	67	67	134	Rate per 1,000 population 15.3
Infant deaths	2	-	2	Rate per 1,000 live births 13.5
Maternal deaths	NIL			

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease	M.	F.	Total.
Influenza	1	-	1
T.B. of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases	1	-	1
Cancer of Buc. Cav. & Oesoph. (M), Uterus (F).	1	4	5
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	6	11
Cancer of breast	-	3	3
do. of all other sites	4	4	8
Diabetes	1	-	1
Intracranial vascular lesions	3	7	10
Heart diseases	26	16	42
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	3	5
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Other respiratory diseases	-	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	2	-	2
Other digestive diseases	1	4	5
Nephritis	3	4	7
Cong., malformations, birth injuries, infant diseases	1	-	1
Suicide	1	-	1
Road traffic accidents	-	1	1
Other violent causes	-	4	4
All other causes	9	6	15

## Section "B".

### GENERAL SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS

#### - WATER SUPPLY -

1. (a) Development. The most important development was the commencement of operations at the Trenwith Mine Shaft. Here the idea is that by damming an adit the water level in the old mine workings will be raised, thus making what is really an underground reservoir.

It must be noted that water from here is already being supplied to certain parts of the town but eventually it is hoped to provide over 250,000 gallons per day. It is not proposed to treat this water in any way - either by chlorination or filtration, and I must put on record my opinion that despite the views of the Ministry of Health based on a Report by one of their engineers in 1941, this is unwise as obviously such water has come from the surface and though bacteriological examinations may sometimes show good results there is nothing to prevent contamination.

- (b) Halsetown. This village is still entirely without a proper supply - being dependent on two wells - one of which supplies the major part of the village. It is an ironical position as the town's Bussow reservoir is less than a quarter of a mile away.
- (c) Cornwall Water Survey. Under the proposals of the County Consultants it is proposed to supply the parishes of Towednack and Zennor in W. Penwith Rural District from new sources of supply at Foage adit and at Analveor Downs in the West Penwith district. A considerable number of the necessary pipes has already been obtained.
- (d) Ten samples were taken during the year for Bacteriological and Chemical Analysis and for Plumbo solvency. Two samples taken from the same well at Halsetown were found to be unfit for drinking purposes. The remaining eight were satisfactory.



Bussow Supply - Bacteriological Report.

Total number of organisms growing at 37° C in 24 hrs. - 3 per Ml.  
" " " " " 48 hrs. - 6 per Ml.  
" " " " " 22° 72 hrs. - 16 per Ml.

I.A.C. Group:- 0 per 100 ml.  
Typical B.coli:- 0 per 100 ml.  
C. Welchii:- 0 per 100 ml.

Chemical Report.

Total Solids	12.9	parts per 100,000
Total hardness	6.8	do.
Temporary hardness	1.6	"
Permanent hardness	5.2	"
Chlorides	4.1	"
Chlorides as NaCl	6.765	"
Nitrates	1.0	"
Nitrites	absent	"
Free ammonia	0.0208	"
Alluminoid ammonia	0.0288	"
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 37° C.	0.1636	"
P.H.	6.9.	"
Lead	absent	"
Iron	do.	"
Zinc	do.	"

The results are satisfactory.

It is estimated that with the exception of the Village of Halsetown approximately 96 per cent of the houses in the borough have a piped supply.

2. SEWERAGE. A new 12 inch main was laid up the Stennack, from Westcott's Quay to the Council's Penbeagle Estate.
3. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES. One point that requires urgent attention is the providing of adequate public conveniences. This is important in any case, but in a town like St. Ives which now makes its living largely from visitors, it is an absolute necessity. At present it must be said that these facilities are wholly inadequate, particularly in the central parts of the town by the West Pier. The spectacle of queues for conveniences is absolutely disgraceful and the need for another in this area is imperative.

4. REFUSE DISPOSAL. The details of this service will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector but here it must be pointed out that in common with the other authorities in this area considerable difficulty has been encountered in getting rid of the refuse and by the end of the year no less than four sites had either been used or had been under consideration. Eventually it was found possible through the courtesy of that authority to come to an arrangement to use jointly the land rented by the W. Penwith R.D.C., at Gwithian. This is a very satisfactory arrangement and there is adequate space to have a joint controlled tip there for a number of years.
5. HOUSING. Progress was still very slow in spite of all the efforts the Council could make to get ahead. However, the town deserves congratulation for the number of houses built since the war compared with its population.

The following is the list of houses built or commenced during the year:-

Council	42
Private	10
Conversions.	15

Work was also well in hand for the erection of ten houses on the Alexandra Road Scheme No. 2, and 4 at Carbis Bay Area.

The number of applications for Council Houses are steadily increasing and the number on the waiting list at the end of the year was 328 families.

A difficulty in this area is that the old houses near the water front do not afford much scope for reconstruction and so a valuable potential source of extra accommodation is not available. It is considered, however, that more use might be made of requisitioning premises suitable for housing.

6. INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Three cases of poliomyelitis occurred, one of which in a non-resident was rapidly fatal - the other two were in mother and baby and there can be little doubt that the child was directly infected from the mother. Both recovered without any serious after affects.

A large epidemic of measles occurred in the autumn - no less than 167 cases being notified. As usual, it is reasonable to assume that a number occurred also at which no doctor attended and which, therefore escaped notification. The table is as follows:-



January 1st to December 31st 1947.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	M.	F.	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	over 45
DIPHTHERIA		1					1	
SCARLET FEVER	3	6		1	8			
POLIOMYELITIS	1	2		1			1	1
MEASLES	86	81	6	49	109	2	1	
WHOOPING COUGH	1		1					
ERYSIPELAS	1							1
PUERPERAL PYREXIA		1					1	

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths
0-1				
1-5				
5-15			1	
15-25	4			
25-45	4			
45 & over	2			
Age unknown				

6. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, was proceeded with, with most disappointing results, as during the year only 14 children under five were immunised. The County Primary (Infants) School was visited and 1 child received a refresher dose and 17 were immunised. Although it is no doubt true that a number of children were immunised by their own Doctors it is true to say that despite every effort the numbers are very low indeed. The details are as follows:-

Under five	Over five	Total	Refresher doses.
14	3	17	1

7. CAMPING SITES. In a town like this with a deserved reputation as a holiday resort it is inevitable that persons wishing to have a tent or caravan holiday should want to come and stay here, and the problem is how to provide for this undoubted demand without severely interfering with the amenities of the town or aggravating its public health problems. While there is a good deal to be said against it largely on account of its undoubted "regimented" effect, there is no question that the idea of one or more officially specified camping sites with water and sanitary arrangements provided and with individual spaces for caravans or tents is more satisfactory from the Council's point of view. It is hoped to arrange a conference with the West Cornwall Joint Planning Committee to try and fix some suitable camping sites.

8. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE. The County Council's proposals for carrying out the duties laid on them by the Act, were received and considered. A brief summary appears in the appendix to this Report, but here it should be mentioned that the representation of the Town (one representative) on the Committee set up to administer this area is hardly commensurate with the importance of the Borough.

A P P E N D I X.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

PART III.

(Summary of Proposals by the Cornwall County Council).

1. ADMINISTRATION. (A) The County to be divided into seven areas with a sub-committee in each area responsible to the County Health Committee for the administration of the services to be provided under the Act. Representation on the Area Committee to be:-
  - (a) By County Council members, (12 members of the Health Committee).
  - (b) From the County District Councils forming the area in the proportion of one representative per 10,000 population.
  - (c) One member to be appointed by each of the following:-
    1. St. Johns Ambulance Brigade
    2. British Red Cross Society
    3. The County Nursing Association

(B) Divisional Medical Officers to be appointed who will hold the combined post of Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health to the County Districts comprised in each area. Except in two areas these Divisional Medical Officers are not also Assistant School Medical Officers. This area (Cornwall No.1) consists of Penzance, and St. Ives Boroughs, West Penwith R.D.C., and St. Just Urban District.

(C) In each area, an Area Office to be set up together with the necessary clerical staff to cover all the services. The Chief Clerk to be the authorised officer under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts (as amended by National Health Service Act).
2. Care of Mothers and Young Children, (Section 22).
  - (a) Weekly ante-natal and infant welfare clinics to be held.
  - (b) Consulting ante-natal and paediatric clinics also to be held weekly.

In Cornwall No. 1 Area, clinics to be held as follows:-

(a) Ante-natal:-

Routine:-	Penzance )		Consulting
	St. Ives )	Weekly.	Penzance
	Hayle )		weekly
	St. Just )		

(b) Infant Welfare Centres:-

Routine:-	Penzance )	3 weekly	Consulting
	St. Ives )	1 "	Paediatric
	Hayle )	1 "	Clinics
	St. Just )	1 fort-	Penzance
		nightly	weekly.

Dental Care. In view of the importance attached to the dental care of mothers and young children the number of dentists at present employed by the County Council will be increased. The work will be carried out at various dental centres. The manufacture and repair of dentures will be carried out in a central county dental laboratory. For this area the centres are located as follows:-

Penzance. St. Ives. Hayle.

3. Midwifery (Section 23). One hundred and thirty-eight District Midwives to be employed by the Local Authority; supervision by an Assistant Superintendent in each of the administrative areas.

For Cornwall No. 1 Area it is proposed to employ the staff as follows:-

<u>Parishes.</u>		<u>Nurses.</u>	
Hayle, Gwinear-Gwithian,	D.N/Mid/H.V.	Gen.& Midw.	Total
St. Erth.....	3	-	3
Marazion, St. Hilary,			
Perranuthnoe.....	1	-	1
Ludgvan.....	1	-	1
St. Ives Borough, Zennor,			
Towednack.....	2	1	3
Madron, Sancreed.....	1	-	1
St. Just U.D., Morvah.....	2	-	2
St. Levan & Sennen, St. Buryan,			
Paul.....	2	-	2
Penzance Borough.....	-	4	4
	12	5	17



4. Health Visiting Service (Section 24). As it would be uneconomical to cover the whole of the County by wholetime Health Visitors, it is proposed to employ only 32, the rest of the Health Visiting being carried out by the District Nurse/Midwives as provided in (3) above.

For Cornwall No. 1 Area, five wholetime Health Visitors/School Nurses will be employed for Penzance and one wholetime Health Visitor/School Nurse for St. Ives.

5. Home Nursing Service (Section 25). As the Home Nursing Service in the county is at present carried out by the District Nurses it is proposed to continue this. For Area No. 1, the distribution is that shown under (3) above.

6. Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26). Regular sessions for the immunisation of children under five to be held as part of the normal welfare centre sessions. The centres will be those with an immediate population of 2,000 and over. Otherwise in rural areas - immunisation to be by arrangement with general practitioners except in exceptionally isolated areas when suitable arrangements for transport to a centre may be made.

Vaccination sessions will also be held as required at Infant Welfare Centres. All members of the staff will be encouraged to bring to the notice of parents the facilities available for the immunisation and vaccination of children.

7. Ambulance Service, (Section 27). The arrangements will utilise the services of St. John's Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society to the limits of their capacity but it is proposed to have paid staff for day duty from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and to rely on the services of the voluntary workers at night and at weekends. The hospital car service organisation will continue but it will be integrated into the new service. The divisional areas already mentioned will be divided into (a) main centres - manned by paid staff as above and (b) country centres - manned entirely by voluntary staff. All drivers and attendants to hold an approved First Aid Certificate and to be interchangeable in their duties. If necessary, whole-time staff can be increased to 100 (at present 25) and up to 12 sitting case cars provided. For Area No. 1, the main centres will be held at Penzance and country centres will be held at St. Ives, Pendeen and Goldsithney. A whole-time driver will be provided also in the Hayle/St. Ives area.

8. Sections 28 and 51 - Mental Health Services. A mental Health Sub-Committee will carry out the detailed administration of the service centrally; a Psychiatrist to be appointed to co-ordinate this service but to be responsible to the County Medical Officer.



The Chief Clerks in the Divisional Offices to be authorised officers to carry out the work under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts. Three psychiatric social workers to be appointed who, in addition to duties under the proposals will also carry out work for the Education Committee for the Child Guidance Service.

As far as the training of mental defectives is concerned it is not proposed to provide any occupational or industrial centres at present.

9. Section 28 - Care and After-care of Illness. There will be integration of the work of the specialists of the Regional Hospital Board with the Local Authority's Service especially in the case of tuberculosis. After-care arrangements for other illnesses to be similar. Nursing equipment and apparatus to be loaned or hired to patients who are being nursed at home and stocks of such apparatus to be kept in the area offices. Continuous health education will be organised centrally, but the Divisional Medical Officers will also be responsible together with the other area staffs.

Section 29.- Domestic Help.

- (a) General administrative arrangements as for the other services.
- (b) The County proposed to appoint a County Organiser to delegate the day to day administration to the Area Committees.
- (c) Whole-time domestic helps to be appointed in the principal towns and the services of part-time helps to be utilised in the rural areas.

For Cornwall No. 1 Area, whole-time helps will be employed as follows:-

Penzance 2, St. Ives 1.

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S A N I T A R Y . . . . . I N S P E C T O R ' S  
.....

R E P O R T   F O R   1 9 4 7  
.....

(MISCELLANEOUS)

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Premises visited re. complaints	346
Re-inspections	307
Drain test new & repair work	92
House Inspections	76
Rodent control inspections	30
Public Conveniences	22
Company Sites	12
Factories	16
Bakehouses	16
Fumigations	19
Ice cream premises	60

FOOD PREMISES.

All the premises where food is prepared have been inspected during the year and the need for cleanliness at all times impressed upon the persons handling food.

Milk.

Eleven samples of milk were taken during the year from the retailers in the Town selling ordinary milk - for bacteriological examination. The results received from the County Bacteriologist were 6 passed, 5 failed.

Ice Cream.

On the 1st May 1947 the Ice cream (Heat Treatment) Regulation 1947 - came into force. During the summer season 60 visits were made to Ice cream manufacturers' premises, and thirty samples of Ice cream were submitted to the County Analysts. The results were as follows:- 3 - Grade I, 4 - Grade II, 11 - Grade III, 12 - Grade IV.

### Unsound Food Condemned.

During the year the following articles of Food were inspected and condemned as unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

3 qts. 24 lb. Scone Meal	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. potatoes
490 lb. flour	30 lb. prunes
18 st. fish	21 lb. bacon
1 Crate Cherries	22 pkts. cereals
237 tins various foods	3 jars pickles
19 lb. cake	56 lb. sugar was returned for re-conditioning.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

#### Collection and Disposal of House & Trade Refuse.

Collection is by means of two Karrier Bantam 7 cub. yds. lorries. Disposal was by controlled tipping in the Balnoon Area, but owing to difficulties the tip was removed at the beginning of August 1947 to Hayle where in conjunction with the West Penwith Rural Council - controlled tipping is carried out in an area more suitable for this.

Number of loads per week	33
Approximate weight of refuse per week	62 tons, 14 cwts.
Approximate weight of refuse per year	3,160 tons.

During the year the Council adopted Section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act 1936, whereby the Local Authority provide and maintain such dustbins and make an annual charge not exceeding 2/6d per year. This scheme has worked very well and the only difficulty has been in obtaining a supply of good quality bins.

Cost of collection and disposal per ton in the financial year 1946/47 was 10/10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Cost per person per year = 3/11d.

The low cost of disposal was due to the fact that in the early part of the year refuse was being tipped into the sea.

### Road Sweeping.

The number of miles of road sweeping amounts to 14.1 miles of unclassified roads and 8.7 miles County Council roads.

### Salvage.

During the year the issuing of waste paper sacks to all house-holders, - shops and hotels was introduced in an effort to increase salvage. This scheme has proved successful by increasing the amount of salvage collected by 27 tons 2 cwts, over last year's total. The amount collected and dispatched during the year was 79 tons 7 cwts, at a value of £539.13s.

### Rodent Control.

During the year the Rodent Operator has been successful in controlling the number of rats. It was estimated that 335 rats were killed during the year and regular inspections are made of the sewers and Stennack River.

There is no doubt that the small number of rats found is due to the small diameter of the sewers which fill up during heavy rain and prevent rats from breeding in them. I would like to record my appreciation of the good work carried out by Mr. T. Nankervis.

### CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

#### (Defence Regulation 56.A.)

The number of Licences issued during the year was as follows:-

23	Conversions	Value	£6,878
143	General Repairs (Dwelling Houses)	"	5,072
40	General Repairs (Business Premises)	"	1,824.10s.
106	Painting & Decorating (Dwelling Houses)	"	3,384
<u>27</u>	Painting & Decorating (Business Premises)	"	<u>1,040</u>
<u>339</u>	Licences valued at:-		<u>£18,198.10s.</u>

From the first settlement of the city in 1630 to the present time, the city has grown from a small fishing village to a great metropolis. The early years were marked by hardship and struggle, but the city eventually became a center of commerce and industry.

THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY

The city was founded by a group of Puritan settlers who came from England in 1630. They established a colony on the eastern shore of Boston Harbor. The settlers faced many difficulties, including lack of food and shelter, but they persevered and built a successful community.

THE GROWTH OF THE CITY

Over the years, the city grew rapidly. The population increased, and the city became a major center of trade and commerce. The city's economy was based on fishing, shipbuilding, and trade. The city's growth was also fueled by immigration from other parts of the world.

The city's growth continued into the 18th and 19th centuries. The city became a major center of industry and commerce. The city's population grew to over 100,000 by the mid-19th century. The city's growth was also fueled by immigration from other parts of the world.



B O R O U G H   O F   S T .   I V E S .

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Report for Year ended 31st December, 1947.

I am indebted to Mr. K.R.C. Martin of the Cornwall County Council (who are the Food & Drugs Authority) for the following figures of samples taken by his Department.

Name of Article,	No. of Samples taken.	No. tested on Gerber (Correct)	No. sent to Analyst Genuine	to Analyst Adulterated.	Re-marks.
Milk	13	9	4		
Butter	2		2		
Cooking Fat	1		1		
Yeast	1		1		
Cheese	1		1		
Jam	1		1		
Cake	1		1		
Brawn	1		1		
Caramel Dessert	1		1		
Coffee	1		1		
	23	9	14		





